

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Robert G. Taub, Chairman;
Mark Acton, Vice Chairman;
Tony Hammond; and
Nanci E. Langley

Competitive Product Prices
Priority Mail Contract 236 (MC2016-191)
Negotiated Service Agreements

Docket No. CP2016-274

ORDER APPROVING AMENDMENT TO
PRIORITY MAIL NEGOTIATED SERVICE AGREEMENT

(Issued July 21, 2017)

I. INTRODUCTION

The Postal Service seeks to amend a Priority Mail negotiated service agreement.¹ For the reasons discussed below, the Commission approves the Amendment.

In Order No. 3512, the Commission approved the Priority Mail Contract 236 negotiated service agreement (Existing Agreement).² On July 20, 2017, the Postal Service filed notice that it has agreed to the Amendment to the Existing Agreement.

¹ Notice of United States Postal Service of Amendment to Priority Mail Contract 236, with Portions Filed Under Seal, July 20, 2017 (Notice). The amendment is an attachment to the Notice (Amendment).

² See Docket Nos. MC2016-191 and CP2016-274, Order Adding Priority Mail Contract 236 to the Competitive Product List, September 14, 2016 (Order No. 3512).

The Postal Service intends for the Amendment to become effective two business days after the date that the Commission completes its review of the Notice. Notice at 1. The Postal Service asserts that the Amendment will not impair the ability of the contract to comply with 39 U.S.C. § 3633. *See id.*

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission has reviewed the Notice and the accompanying materials filed under seal.

Cost considerations. The Commission reviews competitive product prices to ensure that each product covers its attributable costs, does not cause market dominant products to subsidize competitive products, and contributes to the Postal Service's institutional costs. 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a); 39 C.F.R. §§ 3015.5 and 3015.7. As long as the revenue generated by the product exceeds its attributable costs, the product is unlikely to reduce the contribution of competitive products as a whole or to adversely affect the ability of competitive products as a whole to contribute an appropriate share of institutional costs. In other words, if a product covers its attributable costs, it is likely to comply with 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a).

The Existing Agreement includes marketplace and third party rate extension requirements in section II.³ The Amendment replaces that section and adds an appendix describing the marketplace requirements. *See* Notice, Attachment A. The Amendment also reflects the contract partner's corporate name change. *Id.* Attachment A at 1.

The Amendment does not materially affect the underlying financial analysis of the Existing Agreement. Thus, the Commission finds that the Existing Agreement, as amended, comports with the provisions applicable to rates for competitive products in 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a) and 39 C.F.R. § 3015.7.

³ Docket Nos. MC2016-191 and CP2016-274, Request of the United States Postal Service to Add Priority Mail Contract 236 to Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing (Under Seal) of Unredacted Governors' Decision, Contract, and Supporting Data, September 2, 2016, Attachment B at 5 (Request).

Other considerations. The Postal Service states that the Amendment shall become effective two days after the date that the Commission completes its review. Notice at 1. The Existing Agreement, as amended, is set to expire three years after the initial effective date unless, among other things, either party terminates the contract with 30 days' written notice to the other party or it is renewed by mutual agreement.⁴

If the Existing Agreement, as amended, is terminated prior to the scheduled expiration date, the Postal Service shall promptly notify the Commission.

In conclusion, the Commission approves the Existing Agreement, as amended.

III. ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

It is ordered:

1. The Commission approves the Priority Mail Contract 236 negotiated service agreement, as amended.
2. The Postal Service shall notify the Commission if the Existing Agreement, as amended, terminates prior to the scheduled expiration date.

By the Commission.

Stacy L. Ruble
Secretary

⁴ Request, Attachment B at 5-6. Should both parties agree to renew the agreement, any such renewal is required to follow the requirements of 39 U.S.C. § 3633 and the Commission's implementing regulations of 39 C.F.R. part 3015.